

## Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 OC-05 CCO-00 OPR-02 A-01

SY-05 AID-05 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 SCCT-01 SCS-03 SCA-01

EB-07 COME-00 /105 W

----- 015908

O R 021305Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4592

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USINT BAGHDAD UNN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USCINCEUR

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STUTTGART FOR ELG

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PGOV, PINT, LE, PLO

SUBJECT: PHALANGE AND CHAMOUNISTS ENFORCING JUNE 2 GENERAL STRIKE

REF: BEIRUT 6878

1. DESPITE APPARENT CALM AT DAWN JUNE 2, MANY BEIRUTIS FOUND IT IMPOSSIBLE THIS MORNING TO PASS THROUGH CHRISTIAN-DOMINATED AREAS SUCH AS ASHRAFIEYH AND FURN ASH SHUBBAK AND CONSEQUENTLY DID NOT REACH THEIR PLACES OF BUSINESS. IN MID-MORNING, MANY SHOPS IN DOWNTOWN AND OTHER AREAS OF CAPITAL LOWERED THEIR SHUTTERS AS HEAVY FIRING (MAINLY IN THE AIR) ONCE AGAIN SERENADED RESIDENTS. AS BEST WE CAN DETERMINE, PHALANGISTS AND MEMBERS OF FORMER PRES CAMILLE CHAMOUN'S NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY (NLP) HAVE DECLARED GENERAL STRIKE AND ARE TRYING (WITH CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS) TO ENFORCE IT THROUGHOUT CITY. REASON FOR THEIR ACTION IS TO PROTEST JUNE 1 KILLING BY UNKNOWN PERSONS AT DAMOUR OF NAIM BARDAQAN, MILITARY AIDE-DE-CAMP OF CHAMOUN AND COMMANDER OF NLP MILITIA. OTHER SCATTERED INCIDENTS, INCLUDING REDUCED NUMBER OF KIDNAPPINGS, CONTINUED LAST NIGHT AND THIS MORNING IN BEIRUT, CHOUF (DISTRICT IN WHICH DAMOUR IS LOCATED) AND FAR-NORTH AKKAR DISTRICT. (ONE EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE IS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN ABDUCTED IN CHOUF.)

2. PREMIER-DESIGNATE KARAME CONTINUES HIS DELIBERATE EFFORTS TO FORM CABINET AMID CONTINUED POLITICAL MANEUVERING ON SEVERAL SIDES. (KNOWLEDGEABLE OBSERVERS ARE CONFIDENT HE WILL EVENTUALLY SUCCEED AND ARE HEARTENED BY FACT THAT--AS NOTED PARA 3 REFTEL--KARAME IS ALREADY WORKING CLOSELY WITH GOL SECURITY AUTHORITIES IN THEIR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE SECURITY CONDITIONS.) KARAME CALLED THIS MORNING ON PRES FRANGIE TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS AND EMERGED FROM THEIR MEETING TO SAY THAT HE AND PRES HAD AGREED ON MEASURES TO FACILITATE AND SPEED UP  
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FORMATION OF NEW GOVT.

3. COMMENT: MURDER OF BARDAQAN (FBIS JN012111Y) IS VARIOUSLY ATTRIBUTED TO ONE OR MORE LEFTIST GROUPS, BUT SINCE IT OCCURRED IN DAMOUR AREA WHERE VARIOUS FIRE-FIGHTS WERE IN PROGRESS YESTERDAY (REFTEL) IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY WITH CERTAINTY AT THIS POINT WHO HIS ACTUAL ASSAILANTS WERE. SEEMS LIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT BARDAQAN WAS

OBJECT OF PREMEDIATED ATTACK, PARTICULARLY SINCE HE SERVED AS PRIME LIAISON OFFICER BETWEEN NLP AND PHALANGE DURING APRIL CLASHES AND COORDINATED SURREPTITIOUS NLP ASSISTANCE IN SUPPLYING AMMUNITION TO PHALANGISTS. THIS PROBABLY MADE HIM A MARKED MAN AND--COMBINED WITH HIS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH CHAMOUN--WOULD EXPLAIN DEPTH OF REACTION AMONG NLP AND PHALANGIST MILITIAMEN.

4. FOREGOING ILLUSTRATES DANGEROUS ASPECT OF CONTINUING UNPREDICTABLE SECURITY SITUATION IN LEBANON. CHAMOUNISTS, WHO REMAINED OFFICIALLY ALTOF FROM APRIL FIGHTING AND HAVE NOT PLAYED PROMINENT ROLE IN LATEST HOSTILITIES MAY NOW BE DRAWN INTO MAELSTROM THAT THREATENS INCREASINGLY TO ASSUME CONFESSIONAL OVERTONES. THIS COULD HAVE DELETERIOUS POLARIZING EFFECT ON OTHER PERSONALITIES (BOTH CHRISTIAN AND MOSLEM) WHO HAVE SOUGHT TO PRESERVE THEIR NEUTRALITY IN ORDER TO EXERT CALMING INFLUENCE THROUGHOUT PAST TWO WEEKS.  
GODLEY

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SITUATION, LIBERATION FRONTS, GENERAL STRIKES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 JUN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ellisoob  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BEIRUT06917  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750192-0090  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 BEIRUT 6878  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ellisoob  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2003 by ellisoob>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PHALANGE AND CHAMOUNISTS ENFORCING JUNE 2 GENERAL STRIKE  
**TAGS:** PINS, PGOV, PINT, LE, PLO  
**To:** STATE CIA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006